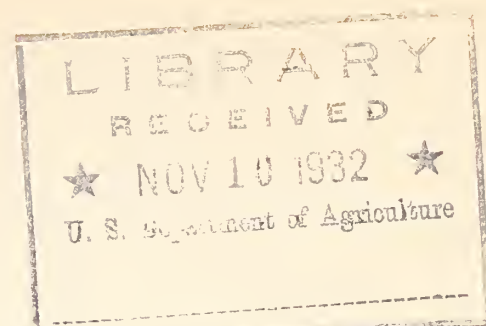


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REDUCING CASH OUTGO
BY HOME PRODUCTION



For a good many of us there is very little choice this year. We must cut expenses by using our brains, our hands, our equipment, and the materials we already have. But as there are so many jobs to be done every day in every home, the housewife's problem is to decide which tasks will use her time to best advantage. Will she save more by baking her own bread, canning, making over clothes, or dispensing with a laundress?

Dr. Hildegarde Kneeland of the Bureau of Home Economics, U. S. Department of Agriculture, has directed a number of studies of the ways in which women use their time in household occupation. Her division has learned some interesting and surprising facts about the "return" on a homemaker's time--that is, how much each hour given to different tasks has saved, when compared with the cost of paying someone to do the same work or buying the same article from a commercial firm.

For example, one housewife put up some canned fruit that cost her 23 cents a jar (because she had to buy the fruit as well as the canning accessories) and she could have bought the best quality of commercial product for 25 cents. For her four hours of work she had a saving of forty cents, which made her time worth only ten cents an hour. Had she raised the fruit herself the canning would have been far more profitable. Or if she had watched prices carefully perhaps she would have purchased to better advantage.

Suppose we ask Doctor Kneeland herself to give you some hints on ways to reduce the cost of living by "home production," or doing the job yourself:

"In the case of farm families or any families that have a garden," she says, "of course we all know that one of the biggest savings comes right out of the garden and orchard. There's certainly no better way of keeping down expenses than by raising your own fruits and vegetables and preserving them for winter use. The average family needs at least a hundred dollars' worth of vegetables and fruits

THE HISTORY OF THE
CITY OF BOSTON

From the first settlement of the
city in 1630 to the present time
the city has grown from a small
village to a large metropolis
and has become one of the most
important cities in the world.

The city has a long and
rich history and has been
the center of many important
events in the history of the
United States.

The city has a large and
diverse population and is
one of the most important
centers of commerce and
industry in the world.

The city has a rich cultural
life and is home to many
important museums and
theaters.

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during the year—in fact, almost two hundred dollars' worth is recommended for a fully adequate diet. And it's often possible to produce every bit of this at home. For the family with a garden, 'plan, plant, preserve, and prosper' is more than a slogan. Even for city families we might say, 'Do your shopping in your own back yard.'

"I am often asked, 'Does canning at home always pay?' It all depends. If you raise the food yourself and know the right methods, it certainly does. The small expenses you have for fuel, sugar, jars, and so forth, don't begin to equal the cost of the ready-canned product. But if you have to buy the food you're canning, you're apt to save very little, unless you get it while the price is at its lowest.

"Skill and speed have much to do with the amount the housewife can hope to save per hour by home production, and the choice of jobs is important, too. I have known women who 'earned' as much as two dollars an hour on certain tasks that required a good deal of skill and that were not highly standardized.

"Several were special jobs in laundering. But most of them were sewing jobs—the more difficult types of sewing, such as making coats or silk dresses.

"In doing most home sewing, of course, the housewife's time is worth a good deal less than two dollars an hour, even if she's a very speedy worker. In fact, it may run as low as ten cents an hour in making the simpler kinds of garments, such as aprons, underwear, and housedresses. For manufacturers can turn these out so cheaply that you can buy the ready-made garment for not much more than the cost of the material.

"Making over clothing from old material or cutting down an adult's garment for a child often pays very well. And sometimes making clothes out of good quality new material pays the home sewer. For even if her time isn't worth very much by the hour, the total savings mount up to a pretty tidy sum, in the course of the year—sometimes seventy-five dollars or more.

"I'm asked whether it's better to buy bread or bake it at home. Here again it's partly a question of whether you have the materials on hand. Many farm families are managing to supply themselves with all the flour they need, by grinding it at home, or by exchanging wheat for flour at the mill. There's no doubt about its paying these families to bake bread at home. But if you have to buy your flour and other ingredients, the savings are pretty small. Unless your family insists on home-made bread, it may be wiser to spend your time on some job that pays better. For there are certainly plenty of jobs to choose from, if you are looking for ways of cutting down expenses."

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